


4 said metal on said surface of said substrate without breaking said continuous  
5 vacuum.

### REMARKS

The foregoing preliminary amendment (which is being mailed simultaneously with a request for filing a divisional application of pending application serial number 09/365,859) is submitted as noted above to define more specifically the invention described in this divisional application. Support for the amendments to claims 10, 12, and 14 can be found in claims 8 and 10 as originally filed. Furthermore, claims 10 and 11 have been amended to correct the dependency. The claims now pending in this divisional application are 10-20. Applicants have canceled claims 1-9. Further, Applicants have reviewed the specification and have found that the above typographical and/or clerical errors require amendment. No new matter has been added.

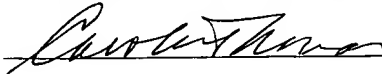
Respectfully submitted,

  
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#### **CERTIFICATION OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

"Express Mail" mailing label number EL277591106US Date of Deposit: December 27, 2000 I  
hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Name: Carol M. Thomas Signature: 

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